

Shriners hospitals also conduct research and provide for the education of physicians and other health care professionals. The hospitals treat children with congenital orthopedic deformities, problems resulting from orthopedic injuries, and diseases of the musculoskeletal system. They are also a large provider of rehabilitation therapy and plastic surgery.

The first Shriners Hospital was opened in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1922 by the Shriners of North America, a group affiliated with Freemasonry. This international fraternity has approximately 400,000 men belonging to 191 Shrine centers throughout North America. Since 1922, the number of hospitals has grown to 22 including hospitals in Canada and Mexico. Their selfless dedication to children's health has made them the leading researchers in burn treatment.

The hospitals are fully funded by gifts, bequests, income from an endowment fund, hospital fund-raising events, and the annual assessment paid by every Shriner. The Shriners are proud to call the system of hospitals "The World's Greatest Philanthropy."

Since its foundation in 1926, the Chicago branch has treated over 57,000 patients. Originally founded to treat polio victims, many hospital stays lasted over a year. Today, the average stay is four days. The hospital specializes in treating children with spinal cord injuries. Chicago greatly appreciates Shriners service and generosity.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Shriners Hospital for Children for its history of dedication and service to the children of Chicago. I congratulate the staff and supporters of this important institution on its 80th Anniversary, and wish them every future success in their continuing efforts to meet the needs of Chicago's children.

HONORING BRUCE LEIBY IN RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bruce Leiby, who is retiring after twenty-nine years of service to Prince William County Public Schools.

Mr. Leiby, the principal of Prince William County's Bel Air Elementary School since 2003, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania, and a Master of Arts degree in Education from Temple University in Philadelphia. He began his career in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania before moving to Prince William County. In 1977, he began teaching at Stonewall Middle School in Manassas and continued teaching at Potomac High School in Dumfries. Throughout his career, he has been an assistant principal at Fred Lynn Middle School, Occoquan Elementary in Woodbridge, and Rockledge Elementary in Lake Ridge. In 1985, Leiby accepted his first position as principal of Occoquan Elementary School. In 1998, he became Bristow Elementary's first principal, guiding the school through its initial years and leading it to receive recognition as a fully-accredited institution. In 2000, due to Principal Leiby's leadership, Bristow Elementary School

won its first School of Excellence Award. After a short stint as Prince William County's curriculum supervisor for social studies of all grades, Leiby returned to school to become Bel Air Elementary's principal in 2003.

While principal of Bel Air Elementary, SOL passing scores have risen substantially. Mr. Leiby has shown himself to be an innovative educator, who inspires students and teachers alike in a nurturing and supportive environment. His leadership style is highly admired throughout the county, whether as a principal or curriculum coordinator. He has been nominated three times for the Distinguished Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year awards. He is truly an asset to the Prince William County Public School system and will be greatly missed.

Our students are our number one resource. Mr. Leiby has dedicated his life to ensuring that they are given the opportunity to achieve success. Over the past 29 years in Prince William County, he has made a lasting impact on thousands of students.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Bruce Leiby and congratulating him on his retirement after a distinguished career.

RECOGNIZING JAMES CAMERON JONES FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Cameron Jones, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years James has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Cameron Jones for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT LEONEL FERNÁNDEZ

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD, an announcement for the Pan American Development Foundation's Inter-American Leadership award awarded to President Leonel Fernández of the Dominican Republic on April 28, 2006. The award is bestowed on "an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in strengthening democracy in the hemisphere and promoting economic and social development in the Americas." Undoubtedly President

Fernández, known for his forward and original thinking, is such a person. At a time of economic turmoil, he has spearheaded numerous reforms and innovations in the economy of the Dominican Republic, promising to reduce inflation, to stabilize the exchange rate and to restore investor confidence. He has largely succeeded in increasing employment opportunities and has "demonstrated a clear vision for a vibrant future for the Dominican Republic." He has worked with the PADF in promoting cross-border programs with Haiti with the goal of economic development, as well as, mitigating the hostile attitudes of the two people who share the island of Hispaniola. I praise the accomplishments of President Fernández and congratulate him on receiving this award honoring his work. I hope that he will continue his effective leadership of his nation and I wish him every success.

PRESIDENT LEONEL FERNÁNDEZ RECEIVES PADF'S INTER-AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Apr. 28.—The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) presented Dr. Leonel Fernandez, President of the Dominican Republic, its 2006 Inter-American Leadership Award this evening in a ceremony at the Hotel Hilton Santo Domingo attended by business, diplomatic, and governmental leaders. The PADF Inter-American Leadership Award is bestowed upon an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in strengthening democracy in the hemisphere and promoting economic and social development in the Americas. Corporate support for the ceremony and dinner was provided by PADF's longtime corporate partners Stanford Financial Group, Citigroup, and Caterpillar, Inc.

PADF's President of the Board of Trustees, Ruth Espey-Romero, stated, "President Fernández's dynamic leadership and vision for his countrymen has strengthened Dominican society. He is committed to advancing his country's economic condition. The President has a clear vision for a vibrant future for the Dominican Republic and how the border can serve as an engine of growth for the entire region. His record has demonstrated his commitment to PADF's vision of 'Creating a Hemisphere of Opportunity for All.'"

PADF also presented awards to several key corporate partners whose support has enabled PADF to accomplish its work throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Representatives of Stanford Financial Group, Altria Group (including Philip Morris International and Grupo León Jimenes), and the American Chamber of Commerce in Haiti each received recognition for their support of projects throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.

The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is an international nonprofit organization established in 1962 through a unique partnership between the Organization of American States and private enterprise to promote, facilitate, and implement social and economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean through innovative partnerships and integrated involvement of the private and public sectors. PADF currently has offices in Bolivia, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Haiti, and has operated in every country throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the Dominican Republic, PADF is working with over 80 local organizations to strengthen to the border region and encourage private sector participation in development. Funding for the programs comes from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), with additional support from other public and corporate donors.